

VITAE

Rev. Dr. Robin R. Meyers

(405) 203-9575

E-mail: rmeyers@okcu.edu

Educational Background:

Ph.D. Department of Communication, University of Oklahoma, 1991. Doctoral Dissertation: *Preaching as Self-Persuasion: A New Metaphor for the Rhetoric of Faith*.

Doctor of Ministry. The Theological School of Drew University, Madison, New Jersey, 1981. Dissertation: *Preaching the Bible Biblically: The Demands of Canon, Context, and Literary Form on the Recovery of Biblical Preaching*.

Master of Divinity (Cum Laude). The Graduate Seminary of Phillips University, Enid, Oklahoma, 1979.

Bachelor of Science, Secondary Education. Wichita State University, Wichita, Kansas, 1975.

Teaching and Professional Experience:

- 1991—Current: **Professor of Public Speaking and Distinguished Professor of Social Justice Emeritus**, Philosophy Department, Oklahoma City University.

Courses taught include Public Speaking, Ethics of Communication, Critical Thinking, Peace and Non-Violence, Interpersonal Communication, Persuasion Theory, Rhetoric and Reality, Learning in Parables, Religious Communication, The Rhetoric of Western Thought, and Argumentation and Debate.

- 2020—2022: **Interim professor of Homiletics**, Phillips Theological Seminary, Tulsa, Oklahoma
- 1991-94: **Director of the Master of Liberal Arts Program**, Oklahoma City University.
- 1987-91: **Graduate Teaching Assistant**, Communication Department, University

of Oklahoma.

- 1983-85: **Assistant Professor of Homiletics** at St. John's Seminary, Plymouth Michigan.
- 1982-83: **Retreat Director**, Congregational UCC ministers, homiletics.
- 1978-79: Appointed Teaching Assistant to the Dean of The Graduate Seminary, Phillips University.

Pastoral Experience:

2021-Current: **Pastor** of **First Congregational Church UCC**, Norman, Oklahoma.

1985-2020: **Senior Minister** of **Mayflower Congregational UCC Church** of Oklahoma City.

1980-85: **Senior Minister**, **Bushnell Congregational Church**, Detroit, Michigan.

1979-81: **Student Minister**, **Oakes Memorial United Methodist Church**, Summit, New Jersey.

1976-79: **Student Minister**, **Marland Methodist/Christian Church**, Marland, Oklahoma.

Publications:

Books:

- ***With Ears to Hear: Preaching as Self-Persuasion.*** Cleveland, Ohio: The Pilgrim Press, 1993.
- ***Morning Sun on a White Piano: Simple Pleasures and the Sacramental Life.*** New York: Doubleday, 1998.
- ***The Virtue in the Vice: Finding Seven Lively Virtues in the Seven Deadly Sins.*** HCI Books, 2004.
- ***Why the Christian Right is Wrong: A Minister's Manifesto for Taking Back Your Faith, Your Flag, and Your Future.*** Jossey Bass, San Francisco, 2006.
- ***Saving Jesus from the Church: How to Stop Worshiping Christ and Start Following Jesus*** (Harper One, 2009).
- ***The Underground Church: Reclaiming the Subversive Way of Jesus.*** Wiley and Sons, 2012).
- ***Spiritual Defiance: Building a Beloved Community of Resistance.*** Yale

University Press, 2015.

- ***Saving God from Religion: A Minister's Search for Faith in a Skeptical Age.*** Convergent/Penguin/Random House, New York, 2020.

Journal/Book/Media Contributions:

- Chapter contributed to ***Preaching in the Context of Worship.*** Chalice Press, 2000.
- Contributing writer for ***Best Advice for Preaching.*** Fortress Press, 1998.
- Chapter contributed to ***The Future Shape of Narrative Preaching*** (Fortress Press, 2008)
- ***The Congregationalist:*** numerous essays and articles since 1980.
- ***The Drew Gateway*** (Scholarly journal of the Theological School of Drew University), sermon entitled: *Living with the Mystery*, 1983.
- ***Word and Witness*** (National Resource Publication for preachers): numerous exegetical entries since 1980.
- ***Biblical Preaching Journal*** (National Resource Publication for preachers): numerous articles and sermons since 1988.
- ***The Detroit News*** (Michigan's largest daily): numerous editorials as a religion columnist from 1981-85.
- ***The Christian Century:*** numerous articles since 1985; became regular contributor in fall, 2000.
- ***The Oklahoma Gazette:*** Columnist since April 1999. 154 newspaper columns published to date.
- ***The Oklahoma Humanities Magazine:*** feature article on religion and politics, fall, 2011.
- ***The Fourth R,*** journal of the Westar Institute: "Spiritual Defiance" vol. 28, No. 16, Nov/Dec 2015, pp. 16-20; and "Bless You Marcus" Vol. 29, No. 1, January/ Feb 2016, pp. 5-7.
- ***Doing Theology in the Age of Trump: A Critical Report on Christian Nationalism.*** Edited by Jeffrey Robbins & Clayton Crockett (Cascade Books, 2018).

Awards and Honors:

- 1978-79 Phillips University Graduate Seminary Distinguished Student.
- Lincoln K. Lieber Memorial Scholarship (Academic).
- Delivered 1981 Congregational Lecture: *A View from the Pulpit: Puritan vs.*

Modern at Grand Rapids, Michigan, National Assembly of the Congregational Christian Churches.

- Established the *Riverside Distinguished Pulpit Series* at Bushnell UCC, Detroit, Michigan, 1983. Riverside guest Preachers included: Jim Forbes, William Sloan Coffin Jr., and Ernest Campbell.
- Winner of the 1985 National Sermon Contest, sponsored by the Congregational Churches meeting in Gorham, Maine.
- Featured preacher at Consultation on Parish Ministry, meeting in Orlando, Florida, sponsored by the United Church of Christ. Shared program with Carl Sagan, Maya Angelou, and Matthew Fox.
- Named Director of the Master of Liberal Arts Program at Oklahoma City University in 1991.
- Named Conference Preacher for the Kansas/Oklahoma Conference of the United Church of Christ for 1991.
- Editorial awards for outstanding commentaries aired on National Public Radio by the Oklahoma State Broadcasters Association.
- Interviewed by Bill Moyers, PBS, for a nationally televised special on *Dateline NBC* on the Oklahoma City bombing.
- Featured Preacher at the **General Synod** of the United Church of Christ, Columbus, Ohio, 1997.
- Established the Oklahoma City University Distinguished Speaker Series in 1997. Speakers have included: Morris Dees, Sr. Helen Prejean, Anne Simon, Robert Kennedy Jr., George Will, Jonathan Kozol, Kurt Vonnegut, Helen Thomas, Archbishop Desmond Tutu, Rabbi Harold Kushner, Wilma Mankiller, Judy Collins, Jane Goodall, Edward Albee, Wangari Maathai, Azar Nafisi, Mark Plotkin, Andrew Weil, Erik Peterson, Ishmael Beah, N. Scott Momaday, David Brooks, Bill Moyers, Jody Williams, and Eboo Patel, David Grann, and Matthew Desmond, among others.
- Named the Earl Preacher for the Earl Lectures at Pacific School of Religion in Berkeley, California, January 2000.
- Preached the Installation Sermon for all national officers of the United Church of Christ Collegium at the reorganization of the denomination in Cleveland, Ohio.
- Became a regular contributor to *The Christian Century* ("Living by the Word"), fall, 2000.
- Delivered the Reinhold Niebuhur Lecture in Detroit, Michigan, April 2001.
- Received the Angie Debo Civil Liberties Award from the ACLU of Oklahoma in 2001 for anti-death penalty work in the case of Wanda Jean Allen (first woman executed in Oklahoma). This became the subject of a feature-length

documentary on HBO directed by Rory Kennedy, entitled *The Execution of Wanda Jean*). <https://www.google.com/search?client=firefox-b-1-d&q=The+Execution+of+Wanda+Jean>

- Named the Distinguished Alumnus of the Communication Department at the University of Oklahoma in 2003.
- Named the Distinguished Honor's Professor at OCU in 2004 and 2010.
- Named the Outstanding Alumni of Phillips Graduate Seminary, 2006.
- Completed an 18-city Book Tour for Jossey Bass, publisher of *Why the Christian Right is Wrong* in 2006.
- Invited to Join the *Westar Institute* (home of the Jesus Seminar), October 2006.
Westar Scholar Snapshot:
https://www.dropbox.com/sh/nq0fzcx9pcupw2w/AACNd0vPFUEYhFDtdf04lr0-a/Westar18-min_H264.mp4?dl=0
https://www.dropbox.com/sh/nq0fzcx9pcupw2w/AABSeidiNcp4ku_rVsaLaCOWa/SSRobin_H264.mp4?dl=0
- Named a Fellow of the *Westar Institute* in 2010 and became a member of the Board of Directors in 2015. Work of Westar: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AbkvQcf6kJg>
- Delivered the commencement address to the graduating class of Eden Theological Seminary, St. Louis, on May 18, 2007.
- Delivered the Commencement Address/Sermon to the graduating class of Phillips Theological Seminary, at First Christian Church, Tulsa, Oklahoma on May 15, 2010.
- Have given over 100 endowed lectures since 2010, both nationally and internationally, based book-related themes, especially *Saving Jesus from the Church*, *The Underground Church*, *Spiritual Defiance*, and *Saving God from Religion*. Presently a client of The Chaffee Management Group. <http://www.chaffeemanagement.com/speakersartists>
- Delivered a Presidential Dream Course at the University of Oklahoma, 2013.
- Was named *Distinguished Professor of Social Justice* at Oklahoma City University in 2013 on the recommendation of the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, and the University Provost.
- Joined the *God Seminar*, a group of national scholars to investigate changing ideas and attitudes about theism, just as the *Jesus Seminar* once reported its findings on the historical Jesus.
- Named *Common Dreams Lecturer* for 2016, giving lectures and preaching in New Zealand and five Australian states.
- Gave the *Marcus Borg Memorial Lecture* at Oxford, and 25 other lectures across the United Kingdom, May 2017.

- Presented a paper at the Westar “God Seminar” on Trump and the Threat of Christian Nationalism published as a chapter in, *Doing Theology in the Age of Trump: A Critical Report on Christian Nationalism*. Edited by Jeffrey Robbins & Clayton Crockett (Cascade Books, 2018).

Noteworthy:

- Delivered the *Lyman Beecher Lectures on Preaching* at Yale Divinity School, in 2013.
- Preached at The Riverside Church of New York City, August 14, 2005, and August 13, 2006.
- Finalist for the pulpit of the Riverside Church of New York City in 1988 and 2008.
- Was the subject of a feature-length documentary by Emmy award-winning producers Jeanine and Catherine Butler (PBS), about the work of liberal churches like Mayflower UCC in conservative Oklahoma, entitled, *American Heretics: The Politics of the Gospel*. Released in 2019, it has screened at film festivals and theaters nationwide.
Trailer: <https://www.americanhereticsthefilm.com/>
Full feature: <https://vimeo.com/user48004956/review/307760235/fb9460ca9f>
Private viewing password: butlerfilms
- Became a *Wikipedia* entry in 2015: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Robin_Meyers
- Became a Trustee of The Kirkpatrick Family Fund, the largest philanthropic organization in Oklahoma, 2021.
- Became a Trustee of the Board of Directors of Union Theological Seminary, New York City, 2023.

Family Status:

Married to Shawn Elizabeth Meyers, an Oklahoma City artist, and graduate of Oklahoma City University's Master of Liberal Arts Program with an MFA in sculpture from the University of Oklahoma, and taught metals, 3-D design, Art History, Life Drawing, and other courses for 15 years at the University of Central Oklahoma.

Shawn and Robin have three children: Blue Austin Meyers (45), Chelsea Elizabeth Meyers (42), and Cass Isaac Meyers (30), and three granddaughters, Iris Blue Meyers (13), Hazel Elizabeth Ewald (9), and Eleanora Louise Ewald, (5).

References:

Bill Moyers
Public Affairs Television
450 W., 33rd Street, 7th Fl.
New York, NY 10019 (212) 560-6961

Dr. Mark Davies
Professor of Social and Ecological Ethics
Oklahoma City University
2733 NW 155th St.
Edmond, OK 73013
405-650-0863

Marianne Borg
P.O. Box 68 OR
7053 Steffey Lane
Powell Butte, OR 97753
503-708-1045

Dr. Amy Cataldi
Dean of the Petree College of Arts and Science
Oklahoma City University
2501 N. Blackwelder
Oklahoma City, OK 73106
405-208-5000
